



Conservation Conversation

Talleyrand Park Showcased In Edible Garden Tours

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Mission Statement

The Centre County Conservation District is a committed, professional agency functioning as the primary local source of assistance to all individuals and organizations who benefit from the county's natural resources that we collectively strive to sustain and improve.

The purpose of the Edible Landscape Garden is to illustrate that edible plants can be an attractive part of a landscape. We want to encourage gardeners to include edibles in their own yards. The garden contains twenty-three different plants, including rhubarb, various lettuces, Tuscan kale and sunflowers. On Saturday, June 9, volunteers added an edging of bricks. Jim and Gay Dunne chair the committee and landscape architect Carolyn DuBois provides design expertise. Bellefonte Borough supplies materials and committee members contribute physical and artistic labor.



Committee members working in Bellefonte's Edible Landscape Garden

June 2012

The Edible Landscape Garden is located in the new section of Talleyrand Park and is open to the public. The project was a highlighted stop for two organizations this summer—The League of Women Voters' Green Homes and Gardens Tour and the Bellefonte Garden Beauty and Bounty Tour. Harvested vegetables are currently being donated to the local food bank.



Centre County Dirt & Gravel Roads Program Update-2012

The Centre County Conservation District received 4 applications from 3 municipalities that have attended *Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt & Gravel Roads* training workshops, making them eligible to apply for funding through this program. After a site visit of each, two were selected by Centre County Conservation District's Quality Assurance Board, (QAB) consisting of representatives from the PA Fish & Boat Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Conservation District, two projects were funded for a total of \$26,600.

The municipalities with approved projects were:

Potter Township: approx. 2700' of Egg Hill Road

- This project includes installation of cross-pipes and headwalls, ditch and bank stabilization, and stabilizing this length of road with DSA (Driving Surface Aggregate).
- The District fully funded the \$10,000 grant request for this project.

Worth Township: approx 3000' of Shady Dell Road.

- This project includes adding road base and DSA (Driving Surface Aggregate), and installing turnouts to improve drainage along it's length.
- The District funded \$16,600 of the \$20,000 requested for this project.

The Dirt & Gravel Roads Program strives to reduce erosion, sediment and dust pollution relating to dirt and gravel roads. Many Conservation Districts participate in a grant program to fund projects with the goal to minimize sediment transport from public roads—with a special focus on roads in special protection watersheds. Funding is limited to roads open to public use and municipalities that wish to participate must have personnel that have been recently (within 5 years) trained in *Environmental Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt & Gravel Roads*.

Contact the Centre County Conservation District for more information regarding the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program or check out the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road studies website at:

<http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/>.



ACT 38 Nutrient Management Plans

Crop year 2012 will be coming to a close by the end of September. If your operation is regulated under Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Program (ACT 38), including Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), and your plan does not currently reflect crop year 2013 you will need to contact your plan writer to ensure that your plan is submitted to the Conservation District for review no later than December 31, 2012. Plans submitted to the District for review after December 31, 2012 are later than 3 months into the 2013 crop year which begins October 2012. Any plans submitted after December 31, 2012 are to be written for crop year 2014. Volunteers can choose to "opt out" of having their plans updated if they feel inclined to do so. However, you are still required to develop and maintain a manure management plan.

All farming operations that apply manure to the land whether they generate the manure, or import it from another operation, need to develop, and implement, a written Manure Management Plan.

Stream Bank Stabilization Completed at Talleyrand Park

The Centre County Conservation District partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bellefonte Borough, the Talleyrand Park Committee, and Rockview inmates to stabilize two badly eroded sections of the stream bank along Spring Creek in Talleyrand Park.



In the first project, we extended a stone wall from an existing wall to the suspension bridge. Thanks to the skills of mason Ron Bair and his sons, the wall looks as if it has always been there! This area was badly eroded and the unstable bank deposited sediment into the stream.



A 56' mud sill was designed and implemented by the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) hydrologist Larry Brannaka. This project addressed an eroded area just upstream of the entrance to the mill race. USFWS equipment operator, John Sloyer, stabilized the site by constructing the mud sill. Staff from USFWS replanted the existing shrubs that had been temporarily removed during construction, and further stabilized the area by planting grass seed.

Employees from Bellefonte Borough poured the footer for the stone wall and re-graded the area in preparation for seeding. Bellefonte Borough also supplied rock and topsoil for the mudsill. Inmates from Rockview Correctional Institution installed sand bags at both job sites to prevent sediment from entering the stream during the construction process.

This project was funded through a Growing Greener grant administered through the Centre County Conservation District and by contributions from the Talleyrand Park Committee and Bellefonte Borough.

Educational Conservation Programs and Wildlife Improvement Workshops

Through a \$2,000 educational PACD mini grant titled: **Wetlands and Waterways Big and Small**, the District assisted in the August 18th educational field day workshop at Chicory Lane Farm, Spring Mills, sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Tour topics such as developing cool and warm-season grasslands, establishing a pollinator field, and controlling invasive plants, were conducted by specialists from DCNR Bureau of Forestry, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Centre County Conservation District, Penn State Extension, and Clearwater Conservancy.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Write your own Manure Management Plan

The Conservation District will be holding educational workshops to assist farmers and landowners in writing their own Manure Management Plans. The next workshop will be held in December in the Penns Valley Area.

Workshops are free and open to the public. Pennsylvania requires a written Manure Management Plan if you own livestock or spread manure on your land. More information about the workshop will be posted on the District website at

www.co.centre.pa.us/conservation



Bald Eagle Area Team Swoops in for 13th Consecutive Win

The Centre County Conservation District sponsored the 28th annual Centre County Envirothon on May 9, 2012 at Bald Eagle State Park. Twelve teams from Penns Valley, Bald Eagle Area, Bellefonte, Central PA Institute of Science and Technology and State College Area high schools participated on a beautiful spring day. The Envirothon tests students' knowledge of the following five subject areas: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife, and Nonpoint Source Pollution and Low Impact Development, the current environmental issue topic for 2012.

For the 13th consecutive year, a team from Bald Eagle Area High School captured the County Envirothon title. Team "Roadkill" (pictured right) from Bald Eagle Area High School scored 455 out of a possible 500 points. Team members Kyle Johnson, Tim Gleason, Sheri McCloskey (not pictured), Donald Cox, and Jeff Gleason also



achieved the highest scores at the Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, and Wildlife stations. The advisor is Jade Thompson. The State College "Gleyed Foxes" team placed second with a score of 434 and also achieved the highest score at the Nonpoint Source Pollution and Low Impact Development station. Susan Braun is the State College advisor. The Bald Eagle Area "Awsom Gorillas" team placed third with a score of 328.

The Bald Eagle Area team represented Centre County at the Pennsylvania Envirothon on May 22 and 23 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and placed 6th of the 62 county teams participating. Bald Eagle Area also scored the highest at the Soils and Land Use station with a 92. MMI Preparatory High School (Luzerne County) won the Pennsylvania Envirothon championship and participated in the 25th annual Canon Envirothon at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA in late July.

Canon Envirothon, North America's Largest High School Environmental Education Competition.



Pennsylvania proudly hosted the *25th Anniversary Canon Envirothon Competition*. The event (July 22-27) took place at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA. Teams of high school students from 44 states, 9 Canadian provinces, and 1 territory participated in a variety of educational events that tested their environmental knowledge on five areas including soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and a current issue with the theme of: "*Going*

Green with Low Impact Development (LID) Technologies to Reduce Non-Point-Source Pollution." Additionally, students prepared an oral component that was presented before a panel of judges on the current issue topic. A five-member team from Pembroke High School in Kansas City, MO. won the 2012 Envirothon. The Pennsylvania team from MMI Preparatory High School (Luzerne County) placed 15th out of a total of 54 teams.



Quote by Theodore

Roosevelt

"To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified..."





Significant Changes to Chapter 102, Erosion and Sediment Pollution Regulations

The Chapter 102, Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control rules and regulations were revised in November, 2010. Some of the revisions mark significant changes to the regulated community. What follows is a list of the major changes that have often not been addressed correctly in recent permit applications.

Buffers – Sites requiring an Individual NPDES permit may not conduct earth disturbance activities within 150 feet of a perennial or intermittent river, stream, or creek, lake, pond or reservoir. If the project is located in an HQ or EV watershed where there are waters failing to attain one or more designated uses listed in Category 4 or 5 on PA’s Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment report (impaired waters), an applicant must protect any existing riparian forest buffer, or, if none exists, establish a new riparian forest buffer.

New Permit Fees – NPDES permit applicants, in addition to the \$500/\$1500 administrative fee and E&S plan review fee, must now include the new “\$100 per disturbed acre” fee. This fee is \$100 for each disturbed acre of project area. Fractional acreage shall be rounded to the closest whole number. This fee is payable to the “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Clean Water Fund.”

New NOT form and requirements – The Department of Environmental Protection has recently released a new version of the “Notice of Termination” form, which addresses the new deed recording requirements for PCSM BMPs. This new form should be used for permits issued after November 19, 2010.

For more information about these program changes you may visit the Conservation District website at www.co.centre.pa.us/conservation , or call the office to speak to a member of the E&S staff.

“Soil To Spoon” The Connection of our food back to the soil



The Centre County Conservation District sponsored the 2012 annual conservation poster contest as part of the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s 12th goal of quality education. This year’s National Association of Conservation Districts’ stewardship theme was **“Soil to Spoon”**. The contest helps teach students about where their food comes from, highlighting the important role of soils. The top three winners in each age division(K-1, 2-3, and 4-6 grades) were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and cash prizes, for their efforts in promoting conservation.

<u>1st Place Poster Winners:</u>	K- 1	Peter Panzeri	Centre Hall Elementary
	Grade 2-3	Rebecca Dean	Wingate Elementary
	Grade 4-6	Kalob Sperling	North Lincoln Hill
<u>2nd Place Poster Winners:</u>	K-1;	Branden Zajackowski	Centre Hall Elementary
	Grade 2-3	Falen McHenry	Port Matilda Elementary
	Grade 4-6	Sofia Micci	Houserville Elementary
<u>3rd Place Poster Winners:</u>	K-1	Pearl Statham	Centre Hall Elementary
	Grade 2-3	Nathan Smith	Port Matilda Elementary
	Grade 4-6	Emma George	Penns Valley Intermediate

Winning posters were displayed in the entrance of the Willowbank Building in Bellefonte. 1st place posters were sent to Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District (PACD) in Harrisburg for the state wide poster competition.

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